

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 08641 151925Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /078 W
----- 014782 /53

P R 151822Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9543
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 8641

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PFOR PO BR
SUBJECT: SOARES VISIT TO BRAZIL

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER MARIO SOARES AND DELEGATION DEPARTED
DEC 14 ON A SEVEN DAY VISIT TO BRAZIL. SOARES WILL SEEK THE PLACEMEN
T
OF AFRICAN RETURNEES, AN INCREASE IN TRADE AND THE RETURN OF
PORTUGUESE TECHNICIANS. BUT, THE PRINCIPAL FOCUS WILL BE ON
IMPROVING CORRECT BUT COOL RELATIONS WHICH HAVE EXISTED SINCE
THE 1974 COUP. END SUMMARY.

1. SOARES DEPARTS FOR BRAZIL: PRIME MINISTER
MARIO SOARES DEPARTED DEC 14 FOR A SEVEN DAY VISIT
TO BRAZIL. IN HIS DEPARTURE COMMENTS HE DENIED
RECENT ALLEGATIONS HE INTENDED TO MEET WITH
PORTUGUESE "CAPITALISTS" NOW LIVING IN BRAZIL,
NOTING HE WOULD CONTACT MEMBERS OF THE PORTUGUESE
COMMUNITY IN AN EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE PORTUGUESE
TECHNICIANS TO RETURN. RESPONDING TO LEFTIST
DEMANDS THAT SOARES RAISE THE POLITICAL PRISONER
ISSUE, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY STATED THAT PORTUGAL
HAS NO INTENTION OF INTERFERING IN INTERNAL
BRAZILIAN AFFAIRS.

2. PORTUGUESE DELEGATION: SOARES DELEGATION
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PAGE 02 LISBON 08641 151925Z

INCLUDES FOREIGN MINISTER MEDEIROS FERREIRA,

DEFENSE MINISTER LTC FIRMINO MIGUEL, STATE SECRETARY FOR CULTURE DAVID MOURAO FERREIRA, CABINET SECRETARY VITOR CUNHA REGO, NATIONAL CIVIL ENGINEERING LABORATORY DIRECTOR MANUEL ROCHA, CULTURAL INSTITUTE VICE PRESIDENT JOSE AUGUSTO FRANCA, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION PRESIDENT MILLER GUERRA, GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AZEREDO PERDIGAO, SOCIALIST DEPUTY AND "A LUTA" EDITOR RAUL REGO, AND CENTER DEMOCRAT DEPUTY AND SOCCER STAR ANTONIO SIMOES.

3. ECONOMIC AGENDA: THE PORTUGUESE WILL SEEK BRAZILIAN AGREEMENT TO ACCEPT A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES FROM THE AFRICAN COLONIES. AN EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO INCREASE COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, BUT THESE RELATIONS - NEVER SUBSTANTIAL IN RECENT YEARS - HAVE LIMITED PROSPECTS. BRAZIL CAN BE EXPECTED TO RAISE A NUMBER OF OUTSTANDING DISPUTES INVOLVING BRAZILIAN INVESTORS.

4. POLITICAL AGENDA: SOARES MAIN INTEREST IS IMPROVING RELATIONS, WHICH HAVE BEEN CORRECT BUT COOL SINCE THE APRIL 1974 COUP. DURING THIS PERIOD SOARES SOUGHT TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH BRAZIL, AND AS FOREIGN MINISTER AFTER THE 1974 COUP HE AGREED TO ASSIGNMENT OF BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR FONTOURA TO LISBON, DESPITE FONTOURA'S CONTROVERSIAL PAST AS DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE. SOARES IS ANXIOUS TO RESTORE CLOSE ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL TIES, DEMONSTRATE THAT BRAZIL DOES NOT OPPOSE THE SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT, AND MAKE A STEP TOWARDS RESTORATION OF THE SOLIDARITY OF THE PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING NATIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LISBON08641
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760462-0060
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761241/aaaabjlk.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <30 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOARES VISIT TO BRAZIL SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER MARIO SOARES AND DELEGATION DEPARTED DEC 14 ON A SEVEN DAY VISIT TO BRAZIL. SOARES WIL
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO, BR, (SOARES, MARIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006